GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2000
INCIDENT OF HIJACKING
RAMDAS ATHAWALE;THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian aeroplanes that had been hijacked by the terrorists along with the loss of life and property during the last three years;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in each case;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on the basis of each inquiry reports Committee-wise and year-wise;

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent incident of hijacking of Indian planes; and

(e) the compensation paid by the Government to the victims of the hijacking incidents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI SHARAD YADAV)
(a) Only one incident of hijacking of Indian aeroplanes during the last three years has taken place. The Indian Airlines flight IC-814 was hijacked on 24.12.1999 en route from Kathmandu to Delhi when the plane was in Indian airspace. After intermediate halts at Amritsar and Lahore on 24.12.1999 and Al-Minad(UAE) on 25.12.1999, the aircraft finally landed at Kandahar on 25.12.1999. The aircraft continued to be parked at Kandahar Airport until the termination of the hijacking in the evening of 31.12.1999. All the passengers were released by the five hijackers, found to be Pakistani nationals, in exchange for three terrorists who were under custody in the Indian prisons namely:

1.Maulana Masood Azhar

2.Ahmed Umar Sayed Sheikh

3.Mustaq Ahmed Zargar

One passenger Shri Rupen Katyal was killed and another passenger Shri Satnam Singh was seriously injured during the incident. Indian Airlines is incurring an estimated loss of revenue of Rs.25.5 lacs per day due to suspension of flights to/from Kathmandu.

(b) & (c) Central Bureau of Investigation is conducting an investigation into the criminal case registered against the hijacking.

(d) The following measures have been taken for safety of air passengers:

i)Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel in place of the State Police forsecurity duties at the domestic operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara and Port Blair Airports.

ii)Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry into sterile area has been tightened. Ladder point secondary frisking has been introduced.

iii)Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of Photo Identity Cards to restrict the number of pass-holders and banning of entry of the visitors upto 28.2.2000.

iv)Deployment of Sky Marshals on some identified routes of Indian Airlines and Air India as an added safety precaution.

v)Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

vi)Replacement of old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines wherever necessaryso as to ensure that atleast two X-Ray machines are available at every point.

vii)Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up at the airports is being done in a phased manner.

(e) A compensation of Rs.8.70 lacs has been paid by Indian Airlines to the next of the kin of the deceased passenger.